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Baba Dore

A stylized illustration of a stack of books with a plant growing from the bottom left. The books are stacked horizontally, with the top book having a red cover and the others having various colored spines. A white plant with long, thin leaves and small flowers grows from the bottom left corner, partially overlapping the books. The background is a solid yellow-green color.



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Dr Baba Dare A

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# Teachers' Perception of Impacts of Reproductive Health Knowledge on Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy and Abortion Among Secondary School Students in Oyo Metropolis, Nigeria

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## Abstract

*This study examined teachers' perception of impacts of reproductive health knowledge on prevention of teenage pregnancy and abortion among secondary school students in Oyo metropolis, Nigeria. Descriptive survey method was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised of all public secondary school teachers in Oyo metropolis. Multi-stage sampling techniques was used to select three hundred and twenty (320) respondents used for the study. The instrument used to collected data used for the study was researchers structured questionnaire duly validated by experts in reproductive health. A correlation coefficient of 0.84 was obtained with the use of test-retest reliability method. In all, three research hypotheses were generated and tested with the use of chi-square statistical method at 0.05 alpha level of significance. The finding from the study shows that sources of secondary school reproductive knowledge have impact on prevention of teenage pregnancy. Also, secondary school students' reproductive health knowledge have impact on prevention of hazards associated with abortion. Based on these findings, the study recommends that education authority should endeavour to employ competent health education teachers to teach reproductive aspect of health.*

## Introduction

Teenage pregnancy and abortion are rampant phenomenon in our present day society. Knowledge of reproductive health among teenagers is observed to be very shallow and this paves way for pregnancy among young adolescents and risk of abortion. The most pathetic is that many abortions among teenagers were done by medical quacks and pseudo-medical personnel couple with its attendant risks on female reproductive health. Hassen (2000) revealed that Nigeria have a high incidence of unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions particularly among adolescents. Worldwide, births to unmarried adolescent mothers are likely to be unintended and those outside marriage are more

likely to end up in abortion (Mangiaterra, Pendse, McClure and Rosen, 2008).

Teachers are nation builders and they are the next people very close to school-going adolescents after their parents because of teachers-students relationship that do exist in schools. On several occasions, they interact deeply with students and multitude of them confide in teachers for some reasons including sexual matters. In the light of this, they know much about them and can give reliable information about them too.

In African setting, there are various taboos and cultural beliefs surrounding discussion of reproductive health issues among adolescents. Most parents find it difficult, awkward and uncomfortable



to discuss sex related issues with their children (Frimpong, 2008). Onwuezobe and Ekanem (2009) affirmed that in many communities in Nigeria, it is usual to prevent adolescents from receiving education on sexual matters. In the study of Idonije, Oluba and Otemere (2011), among the female students who formed their respondents, their commonest sources of information about sex and contraception were friends (27.1%), followed by books and magazines (18.5%) teachers (13.7%), parents (9.2%) and neighbours (8.6%). It was further buttressed according to Padma, Shobha and Vidula (2009) and Frimpong (2010) that most school-going adolescents get information on sexuality through their friends/peer, literatures, elderly sisters, parents (particularly mothers), health professionals, church and teachers. Many parents failed to be good source of information because they lack the necessary knowledge about sex education (Shehu and Baba, 2002).

According to Baker and Rioh (1992), the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa have the highest level of early childbearing in the world. Through the study of James-Iraore (2001), it was revealed that in the southwest of Nigeria, nearly half of females have been pregnant before as well as two thirds of those not currently enrolled in school. This issue of unwanted pregnancy is a source of concern within the family most especially if the pregnancy occurs out of wedlock. In a bid to avoid facing judgment from their family and community members, resulting to abortion is commonly their only choice (Idonije, Oluba and Otamere, 2011).

There are multi-factors promoting teenage pregnancies in Nigeria. Adegbeniga, Dipeolu, Babalola and Out (2003) were of the opinion that rapid urbanization, low socio-economic status, low educational and career aspirations, residence in a single parent home and poor family relationship were among the factors associated with teenage pregnancy. Other factors promoting teenage pregnancy as identified by Iyaniwura and Salako (2005) include, declined age at menarche and the increase in the number of years spent in school.

Teenage pregnancy constitutes a health hazard to both teenage mothers and the fetus, among these hazards include, high maternal and perinatal mortality rates and high school dropout rates (Uwaezuoke, Uzockukwu, Nwagbo and Onwujekwe,

2004). Baba, Oniyangi, Shehu, Adebayo and Oguntunji (2010) opined that vesico vaginal fistula is more common among the teenagers that have not completed their growth spurt or course. Further consequences as identified by Baker and Rioh (1992) and Garenne (1997) are higher infant mortality, increased maternal morbidity and mortality, and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. A large United State study found a 55 percent higher risk of neonatal death to babies of mother age 10-15, a 19 percent higher risk in babies 16-17 years old, and a 6 percent higher risk in babies of 18-19 years old (Manglaterra, Pendse, McClure and Rosen, 2008). Manglaterra, Pendse, McClure and Rosen (2008) emphasized that obesity, anaemia, sexually transmitted infections, mental illness, unsafe abortion complications and obstetric fistula as conditions associated with adolescent child-bearing.

Adolescent sexual engagement without using any contraceptive device culminates in teenage pregnancy which sometimes ends up in removal of a growing embryo from the uterus to which it is attached. Gradually, abortion has become a public health threat vastly spread like fly. Abortion is the removal or expulsion of a fetus from the uterus, which if not done by expert may result in or causing death. Abortion has been identified as a leading cause of maternal morbidity and mortality in developing countries including Nigeria (Idonije, Oluba and Otamere, 2011). Nigeria has two abortion laws, one for the Northern states and one for the Southern states. Both laws specifically allow abortions to be preformed to save the life of the woman. According to World Health Organization (2005), unsafe abortion is recognized as a significant cause of maternal mortality and morbidity in the world. Mostly, unsafe abortion occurs where abortion is illegal, or in developing countries where affordable well-trained medical practitioners are not readily available, or where modern contraceptives are in low use or are unavailable.

In Africa, an estimated 21.6 million unsafe abortions take place each year, nearly all of which occur in developing countries compared to 3.7million that occurred in 2004 and result in approximately 14-40percent of maternal death in Africa including Nigeria (World Health Organization, 2011; World Health Organization, 1994; Adetoro, 1989). The study of Aderibigbe, Araoye, Akande, Musa,



Monehin and Babatunde (2011) shows that all their female respondents that were pregnant claimed that they aborted pregnancies and this give an abortion prevalence of 100 percent among their respondents while 87.5percent of all the males that have gotten a girl pregnant said that they told the girls to abort their pregnancies. Several reasons given by teenagers to have resorted to abortion include, not being married, being too young, still in school and partners not wanting the child (Aderibigbe et al, 2011).

The outcome of the study of Abdul, Anate, Oganija, Balogun, Fawole and Aboyeji (2001) revealed low level of awareness of abortion complications, which translates to an unbelievably high level of ignorance of unsafe abortion. In addition to maternal death, unsafe abortion can lead to; significant short and long term illness and injury to women, infertility, and increased likelihood of death among children whose mothers have died and high cost for treating complications (World Health Organization, 2005). Abdul et al (1999) and World Health Organization (2005) further highlighted infertility, pelvic sepsis, chronic pelvic inflammatory disease, bleeding, retained product of conception, uterine perforation, bowel and bladder injury, cervical laceration, haemorrhagic disorder (pre-existing disseminated intravascular coagulation, shock and death) are all complications and consequences of abortion.

### Research Questions

This study is carried out with the use of the following research questions:

1. Will teachers' perception of sources of reproduction health knowledge of secondary school students have any significant impact on prevention of teenage pregnancy and abortion in Oyo metropolis, Oyo state?
2. Will teachers' perception of secondary schools students' health knowledge have any significant impact on prevention of hazards associated with abortion in Oyo metropolis, Oyo state?
3. Will teachers' perception of secondary school students' reproductive health Knowledge have any significant impact on prevention of hazards associated with

teenage pregnancy in Oyo metropolis, Oyo state?

### Research Hypothesis

In carrying out this study the following hypotheses were drawn and tested:-

1. Teachers' perception of source of secondary school students' reproductive health knowledge will not have any significant impact on prevention of teenage pregnancy and abortion in Oyo metropolis, Oyo state.
2. Teachers' perception of secondary school students' reproductive health knowledge will not have any significant impact on prevention of hazards associated with abortion in Oyo metropolis, Oyo state.
3. Teachers' perception of secondary school students' reproductive health knowledge will not have any significant impact on prevention of teenage pregnancy in Oyo metropolis, Oyo state.

### Purpose of the study

This study examined perception of teachers on impacts of secondary school students' reproductive knowledge on prevention of teenage pregnancy and abortion in Oyo metropolis. The study also aimed among others at:

- Determining the impact of students' source of reproductive health knowledge on prevention of teenage pregnancy and abortion.
- Establishing impact of secondary school students' reproductive health knowledge on prevention of abortion among teenagers.
- Determining impact of secondary school students' reproductive health knowledge on prevention of pregnancy among teenagers.

### Materials and Methods

The study was carried out in Oyo town, Oyo state, Nigeria. Oyo metropolis comprises of 4 local governments namely: Oyo East, Oyo West, Atiba and Afijio. Descriptive research design of survey type was adopted for this study. The study population consisted of all public secondary school teachers. Public school teachers were considered because most of their students were high risk group for both teenage



pregnancy and request for abortion due to the fact that many of these students represented the less-privileged in the aspect of access to timely and accurate information, and good parenting. In the seat of each local government, using balloting system, two (2) public secondary schools were randomly selected making eight (8) schools in all the four (4) existing local government within the metropolis.

A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select a sample representation of forty teachers in each school totalling, three hundred and twenty (320) teachers as respondents. Close ended researcher's structured questionnaire validated by three experts in the fields of human medicine reproductive and family health and health education was the main instrument used for the study. The reliability of the instrument was done using test-retest method with twenty (20) teachers that were not included in the sample for the study within the interval of two weeks.

The results of both administrations were correlated using Spearman Rank Correlation co-efficient and yielded a correlation co-efficient of  $r=0.84$  which made the instrument reliable for the study. Consent of each participant and the permission of each school principal were obtained before the instrument administration. Principal investigators and two trained research assistants helped in the on the spot administration and retrieval of the completed questionnaires. One hundred (100%) retrieval rates were achieved. Inferential statistics of chi-square was used to test the postulated hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

### Results

**Hypothesis 1:** Teachers' perception of source of secondary school students' reproductive health knowledge will not have any significant impact on prevention of teenage pregnancy and abortion in Oyo metropolis, Oyo state.

**Table 1: Impact of secondary school students' reproductive knowledge on prevention of teenage pregnancy and abortion**

S/N	Item	SA	A	D	SD	Total	X <sup>2</sup> crit.	X <sup>2</sup> cal	Df	Dec.
1.	Secondary schools students obtained reproductive health information from internet	47	189	66	18	320	16.92	88.04	9	Hypothesis rejected
2.	Literatures/textbooks are main sources of reproductive health Knowledge among secondary school students	50	228	29	13	320				
3.	Reproductive health information among secondary school students is being sourced for from parents/relative	77	182	32	29	320				
4.	Secondary school students sourced for reproductive health knowledge from peers/mates	101	192	11	16	320				
	Total	275	791	138	76	1280				

Table one above shows calculated chi-square value of 88.04 against the critical value of 16.92 with degree of freedom of 9 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value the above stated hypothesis is hereby rejected. This means that source of secondary school students reproductive knowledge will have significant impact on prevention of teenager pregnancy and abortion in Oyo metropolis,

Oyo state.

**Hypothesis 2:** Teachers' perception of secondary school students' reproductive health knowledge will not have any significant impact on prevention of hazards associated with abortion in Oyo metropolis, Oyo state.



**Table 2: Impact of secondary school students' reproductive knowledge on prevention of hazards associated with abortion**

S/N	Item	SA	A	D	SD	Total	X <sup>2</sup> crit.	X <sup>2</sup> cal	Df	Dec.
1.	Secondary school student know that abortion is associated with pelvic sepsis	61	211	44	4	320	12.59	29.16	6	Hypothesis rejected
2.	Secondary school student are well aware of infertility as one of the consequences of abortion	86	180	30	24	320				
3.	There is increased knowledge of secondary school student on likelihood of cervical laceration/tear as one of the outcomes of abortion among teen mothers	65	215	30	10	320				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>960</b>				

The analysis of tested hypothesis two in the table above shows calculated chi-square value of 29.16 against the critical value of 12.59 with degree of freedom of 6 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Since the calculated value is greater than critical value, the above stated hypothesis is hereby rejected. This means that secondary school students' reproductive

knowledge will have impact on prevention of hazards associated with abortion in Oyo metropolis.

**Hypothesis 3:** Teachers' perception of secondary school students' reproductive health knowledge will not have any significant impact on prevention of teenage pregnancy in Oyo metropolis, Oyo state.

**Table 3: Impact of secondary school students' reproductive knowledge on prevention of hazards with teenage pregnancy**

S/N	Item	SA	A	D	SD	Total	X <sup>2</sup> crit.	X <sup>2</sup> cal	Df.	Dec.
1.	The knowledge of risk of maternal morbidity and mortality is associated with teenage pregnancy is well understood by secondary school student	63	197	35	25	320	12.59	34.33	6	Hypothesis rejected
2.	Secondary school student understood pregnancy complications like pregnancy induced hypertension, anaemia et cetera as likely consequences of teenage pregnancy	50	220	15	35	320				
3.	Secondary school student knew that most teenage mothers suffer from delivery related problems like, obstructed labour, obstetric fistula among others	40	245	28	7	320				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>960</b>				



Table three above shows calculated chi-square value of 34.33 against the critical value of 12.59 with degree of freedom of 6 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Since the calculated value is greater than critical value, the above stated hypothesis is hereby rejected. This means that secondary school students reproductive health knowledge will have impact on prevention of teenage pregnancy in Oyo metropolis.

### Discussion of Findings

It was revealed from findings of tested hypothesis one that secondary school students knowledge of reproductive health have much impact on prevention of teenage pregnancy and abortion in Oyo state. This finding agreed with the finding of Manglaterra, Pendse, McClare and Rosen (2008) that possession of adequate knowledge of complications and consequences such as obesity, anaemia, sexually transmitted infections, mental illness, unsafe abortion and obstetric fistula etc. as conditions associated with adolescent childbearing can help to avert or reduce abortion incidence and teenage pregnancy.

The finding from analysis of tested hypothesis two revealed that secondary school students' reproductive knowledge have impact on prevention of hazards associated with abortion in Oyo metropolis. This finding agreed with the finding of Abdul Anate, Oganija, Balogun, Fawole and Aboyeji (1999) that low level of awareness of abortion complications, usually translates to an unbelievably high level of ignorance of unsafe abortion.

The result of analysis in table 3 above revealed that secondary school students' reproductive knowledge have impact on prevention of hazards associated with teenage pregnancy in Oyo state. This finding agreed with Uwaezuoke, Uzochukwu, Nwagbo and Onwujekwe (2007) that ignorance of implications of teenage pregnancy constitute health hazard to teenage mothers and the foetus which include high maternal and perinatal mortality rate and high school drop out rates.

### Conclusion

Based on the findings and results of the study, the following conclusions were drawn;

- Source of secondary school students' reproductive knowledge will have impact on prevention of teenage pregnancy and

abortion.

- Secondary school students' reproductive knowledge will have impact on prevention of hazards associated with abortion.
- Secondary school students' reproductive health knowledge will have impact on prevention of teenage pregnancy.

### Recommendations

The researchers made the following recommendations as ways forward based on the findings of this study:

1. There is need for education sector to employ certificated health education teachers to be able to teach students the components of reproductive health and other related health issues.
2. Government should endeavour to re-introduce life planning education as a subject in secondary schools with proper implementation coupled with competent hands to handle it.
3. Teachers should encourage students to form health club in various schools so as to pave way for learning health topics vital for their all-round reproductive health developments.

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